



West Bergholt Methodist Church

Rev. Ken Chalmers – 01206 545253
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THE LINK

DECEMBER 2017 / JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY SERVICES

WORSHIP at 11 am (except as noted) will be led by

Dec. 3rd GIFT & PARADE SERVICE Rev Ken Chalmers

Followed by Church Meeting

Dec. 10th Mr Brian Llewellyn

Dec. 17th NO MORNING SERVICE

6.30 pm CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

With Rev Ken Chalmers

(mince pies and coffee in the hall afterwards)

Dec. 24th Rev Alan Jenkins

Dec. 31st United service at St. Mary's at 9.30am, Rev Mandy Elmes

Jan. 7th Local Arrangement

Jan. 14th Rev. Ken Chalmers COVENANT SERVICE

Jan. 21st Mr Phil Bingham

Jan. 28th Mrs Betty Rampling

Please note that there will be a special short Church meeting after the service on December 3rd to make a decision concerning the future of our church here in West Bergholt.

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If you would like to come to any of our services, or any other church activities, but would need a lift, please phone 01206 242511 or 241969.

All children are very welcome. Crèche facilities will be provided when necessary. For further information please contact:- Mrs Susan Windscheffel

GIFT and PARADE SERVICE on DEC. 3rd at 11am **With Rev Ken Chalmers.** Gifts donated will be distributed to the homeless at THE WOMEN'S REFUGE, BEACON HOUSE, & THE NIGHT SHELTER, making their Christmas a more joyful occasion. Everyone is welcome with the uniformed organisations of the village to make this a very special day.

School Holiday Activities

We are holding another of our **Coffee and Craft** mornings providing fun activities for young families (children please bring a parent along). This will take place in the West Bergholt Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Lane from 10.30 – 12.00 on **Thursday 21st December.** **Please note change of day.** Look out for

our posters nearer the time for further details or phone Andrew (242511). **ALL WELCOME.**

Candlelight Carol Service on Dec. 17th at

6.30pm with Rev Ken Chalmers

followed by mince pies and coffee in the hall afterwards. **All welcome**



We will be **CAROL SINGING** in West Bergholt outside the Co-op store on **Friday December 22nd from 6.15-7.30pm.** More voices are always welcome so please come and join us. We will be raising funds for Action for Children. Followed by coffee and mince pies.

There will not be a **Christmas Morning Service** at our Church, but there will be services at the following:-

- St Mary's, Family service at 9.30am, Rev Christine Shillaker.
- Ark, Highwoods Methodist Church at 10.30am, Rev Ken Chalmers.

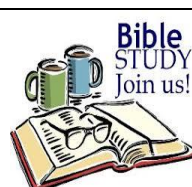
OTHER MEETINGS

Please feel free to join us at any of these – you will be made most welcome...

Village weekday communion at St Mary's on

TUESDAY DECEMBER 12th at 11am

TUESDAY JANUARY 9th at 11am



Our Bible Study Book Club meets every third Wednesday, next meeting **Wednesday 20th December at 10.30am** in our hall. We are looking at the Letter of Paul to the Philippians. All are welcome

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP



Our next meetings will be at 2.30pm on

Wednesday December 20th Christmas Carols and tea
Wednesday January 17th Speaker: Rev Ken Chalmers

A CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL is being held at the parish church in Great Horkesley, over the weekend

Dec 2nd/3rd. Pat is organising our tree. All are welcome to visit the display on Saturday from 11.00am to 4.00pm and on Sunday from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.

Prospecting for Gold

By Ron Brook (2012)

The Past

The Magi were travelling, long, long ago,
Through the nights when the desert grows cold:
One bearing frankincense, one bearing myrrh,
And one was supposed to have gold!

Two travelled together and followed a star,
Shining on high, bright and bold.
They kept looking backwards, wondering where...
Where was the one with the gold?

They were astrologers out to fulfil
A prophesy long since foretold:
To seek out and worship a newly born king.
They had frankincense, myrrh – but no gold!

Ever they wondered, as they travelled on;
How would their story unfold?
Would they succeed in presenting their gifts...
...and where was the man with the gold?

They travelled in caravans; camels and mules
Laden with goods to be sold.
They trusted each other, but what of the third?
Had he run away with the gold?

They came to Jerusalem, surely the place?
To King Herod their story they told.
His advisers conferred and then sent them away
(Still wondering where was the gold?)
King Herod was angry – A NEW KING WAS BORN?!
His fury could not be controlled.
“Find me this king, and the present I’ll give
Will be sharpened iron, not gold!”

The sages were led to a stable so bare
With cattle and sheep in a fold.
A new-born babe lay in a manger, asleep –
And there was the sage with the gold!

They should not have doubted him, this now they
knew;
He was cast from the very same mould.
He had gone ahead – he had followed his star,
And he’d got there first with the gold.

The child in the manger was surely the one
Whose arms all mankind would enfold.
They bowed down and worshipped and gave Him
their gifts:
The frankincense, myrrh – and the gold.

A wonderful tableau before them; They saw
The Trinity slowly unfold;
The father, the mother, the infant Christ-child,
The frankincense, myrrh and the gold.

The Present

So do we, in our lives, spend time looking back
Like those two great sages of old?
Wondering, where were our rainbows’ ends:

Where were our crocks of gold?

Do we live in the present, material world
Asking “What does our bank account hold?”
Constantly seeking for more and more wealth,
As if we were mining for gold?

Or do we look forward to what is to come,
Counting blessings and gifts manifold?:
The rewards we receive from sharing our love
With others with hearts good as gold.

The Future

In the fullness of time we will pass from this life
And enter the City of Gold;
The New Jerusalem, where stands the man
With the book where our names are enrolled.

He will read from that book of our past lives and
deeds
As page after page is unrolled.
We will bow then before Him in wonder and awe
And worship the King with the Gold?

On that glorious day when the rites have been read
And funeral bells have been tolled,
Will we fail the test – be rejected as dross –
Or valued and assayed as gold?

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The next monthly **COFFEE MORNINGS** will be on
Weds. 13th Dec. and Weds. 10th Jan. 10-11.30am

BRING A FRIEND WITH YOU
Coffee or Tea and Biscuits - 50p
Gifts for Cake and General Stalls
will be appreciated.



Greetings Cards will be on sale
Thank you for your support, Nov. result £30-26

Our special **CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING** is on
Saturday 2nd December, 10-12 noon. There is a
warm welcome for you with coffee/tea and mince pies
available.

**We shall be very pleased to receive cakes,
preserves, books, jigsaws etc for the stalls and
any gifts, however small, to put on the gift table.
We also need small items for the Mystery Parcel
Stall.**

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Our **NEW YEAR SOCIAL AFTERNOON** takes place
on **SATURDAY 27th JANUARY** from 3 – 5.30pm in
the Hall. Friends from our Sector Churches and the
Village are welcome to join us for a fun afternoon.
Please come along. There will be a BRING and
SHARE TEA – we supply the Coffee and Tea. Details
from Judith – 01206 241969

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat. Dec. 2nd Christmas Coffee Morning at 10am.
Sun. Dec. 3rd Gift and Parade Service at 11am
Sun. Dec. 17th Candlelight Carol Service 6.30 pm
Thurs. Dec 21st Coffee and craft in hall 10.30-12.00
Fri. Dec. 22nd Carol Singing outside the Co-op 6.15pm
2018
Sun. Jan 14th Covenant Service led by Rev. Ken
Chalmers

Sat. Jan. 27th New Year Social in the Hall

**Copy for the February edition should be with Andrew
Wilks by the third Sunday in January– Jan. 21st please.**